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Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Letter dated 20 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Russian-Chinese communiqué adopted in Moscow on 14 April 1999 on consultations on issues relating to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 75 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) **Qin** Huasun
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to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
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* A/54/50.

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Annex

Russian-Chinese communiqué adopted in Moscow on 14 April 1999 on consultations on issues relating to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems

In accordance with the agreement reached on 25 February 1999 between the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, consultations on issues of strategic stability took place in Moscow on 14 April 1999 between Mr. G. E. Mamedov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Wang Guangya, the Assistant Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China. Military and diplomatic experts from both sides took part in the consultations.

Particular attention was paid to discussion of the emerging situation relating to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty). The basis for discussion of this problem was the mutual understanding, embodied in the Joint Statement of 23 November 1998 on the results of the Russian-Chinese summit meeting "Russian-Chinese relations on the threshold of the twenty-first century", regarding the exceptional importance of maintaining and strengthening the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, signed in 1972, which was and remains the cornerstone of the maintenance of strategic stability in the world.

The two sides expressed their serious concern that as a result of the plans announced in the United States of America for preparations for the deployment of a national anti-ballistic missile system, a serious risk is currently arising of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty being undermined. The implementation of such plans would be a violation of the basic obligation under the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, namely not to deploy anti-ballistic missile systems for a defence of the territory of a country and not to provide a base for such a defence.

The two sides consider that the undermining or violation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty would lead to a whole series of negative consequences — the emergence of new factors capable of bringing about destabilization of the international situation at both the global and the regional levels, and the creation of conditions for a renewal of the arms race and for additional obstacles on the road to progress in disarmament.

In the situation that is emerging, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China consider it necessary to draw the most serious attention of the international community to the consequences that might arise if the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty is violated.

On the basis of its traditional interest in the maintenance of strategic stability and the strengthening of international security, the People's Republic of China, which is not a party to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, proclaims its solidarity with the efforts of the Russian Federation to prevent the Treaty being undermined or circumvented. The Russian Federation, for its part, fully supports the efforts of the People's Republic of China to strengthen international and regional security. The two sides expressed concern that the implementation of the existing plans for the creation and deployment of an anti-ballistic missile system by a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific region may lead to an increase in tension in conflict areas in the Asia and Pacific region.

The two sides declare their readiness to continue, depending on the development of the situation, discussion and cooperation on issues relating to the maintenance of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and also on the problems in this respect.